



Springfield

Medical Care Systems, Inc.

Where People Come First

April 11, 2018

Members of the Select Board and Planning Commission
Town of Chester
556 Elm Street, PO Box 370
Chester, VT 05143

Dear Select Board and Planning Commission Members:

Springfield Medical Care Systems has heard the call for increased dental services loud and clear through our community needs assessment process and from area residents and professionals. We are pleased to announce preparations are underway to meet this need and expand dental services in our region.

The number of patients who need a dental home exceeds our current dental clinic capacity in Chester and Ludlow, VT, and we must allocate additional resources to meet this growing demand.

We are pleased to inform you that, later this summer, we plan to expand dental services at our Chester location. The addition of a second dentist and two hygienists will greatly increase access to dental care.

In order to accomplish this, Robert Schwartz, MD, will relocate his practice to Rockingham Health Center as of June 1st. Rockingham Health Center is about 15 minutes southeast of Chester and offers his patients expanded services, including walk-in care 7 days a week and on-site radiology and lab services.

We value the relationship between our patients and Dr. Schwartz and the Chester Health Center staff, and we will work to make this transition a smooth one. We are encouraging our patients to retain their primary care relationship with Dr. Schwartz. If they find they need another option, we are providing information on other SCMS locations for consideration. Springfield Health Center is about 15 minutes east of Chester, and Mountain Valley Health Center in Londonderry, VT, is about 15 minutes to the west. Other clinic locations include Ludlow, VT, and Charlestown, NH. All of our clinics are accepting new patients and health records will be available at the clinic of their choosing.

Gerald Drabyn, MD, relocated his office to Springfield Health Center effective April 2nd. Jean White, LICSW, will also relocate her practice to Rockingham Health Center. Heidi Lowe, LICSW, will offer appointments at Ludlow Health Center, Springfield Health Center and Mountain Valley Health Center effective June 1st. We will retain our valued Chester Health Center staff at other SMCS clinics after June 1st.

We are confident this is a positive step in meeting the overall health needs of our region, and transitioning Chester Health Center to a regional hub for dental services will also bring patients to Chester.

We will work with you, in your capacity as town officials, to take any necessary steps to comply with local regulations as we work to develop this regional hub for dental services.

It is our honor to serve the healthcare needs of area residents and we look forward to continuing our relationship with the Town of Chester as a local healthcare resource.

Please call Lori Twombly, Director of Primary Care Operations, at 802-886-8901 with any questions.

Thank you,

Timothy Ford
Chief Executive Officer